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February 10, 2009

Leslie Yuenger
Public Affairs Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
NAVFAC Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle
Silverdale WA 98315-1101

via email attachment only:
leslie.yuenger@navy.mil

RE: Gorst Landfill, aka Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill

Dear Mrs. Yuenger:

I represent ST Trust, the current owner of the above-referenced landfill that is located along State Route 3 SW, near Gorst, Washington. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) disposed of refuse at this landfill at least during the period of 1969-1970, and, if I understand the position of the Kitsap County Health District correctly, perhaps longer. The Health District also believes that the PSNS refuse included medical wastes.

NAVFAC NW is aware of this landfill -- and the Navy's liability -- as in 2000 it had prepared a Site Hazard Assessment (SHA) by its contractor HartCrowser. A copy of the main text of this report is being provided with this letter for your convenience. The HartCrowser report references a Navy proposal for a Focused Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study as a first step in controlling the drainage and stabilizing the fill. (See page 21 of the report at pdf page 25 of 27.) To my knowledge such a study has never been done.

Following the HartCrowser report the State Department of Ecology assigned the site a Washington Ranking Method (WARM) score of 1, indicating a site with the most serious risk to human health and the environment. I am confident that this ranking was partly driven by the City of Bremerton drinking-water wells located down gradient, the source of water to many people -- including, no doubt, many Navy personnel and employees.

The Kitsap County Health District, acting as lead agency, is committed to getting this site stabilized and properly closed. To that end the District is leaning on my client who only assumed ownership long after the landfill became inactive. Now we look to the Navy to step up to its responsibilities so that everyone's money and energy can be directed at finding and implementing a quick and cost-effective solution to this lingering threat.

Leslie Yuenger
Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC NW
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Thank you for your attention in this matter. Please pass this letter on to legal counsel and others within the Command with responsibility for environmental cleanups. I look forward to their response.

Finally, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with Appendices A, B, and C of the HartCrowser report.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Hirsch", written in a cursive style.

Paul J. Hirsch